

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-25. (cancelled)

26. (new) A method to protect from unauthorized access an electronic data object created to store information, comprising the steps of:

generating an electronic data object identifier which identifies a content of information stored in the data object;

determining an electronic user identifier of an operating personnel seeking access to the data object, said user identifier being different than said data object identifier;

determining an access right dependent on the data object identifier and also on the user identifier; and

allowing the access by the operating personnel to the data object dependent on the access right.

27. (new) The method according to claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of access right categories; and

determining an association of the user identifier with at least one of the access right categories, the access right being determined dependent on the association of the user identifier with the at least one access right category.

28. (new) The method according to claim 26 further comprising:

providing a plurality of access right categories; and

determining an association of the data object identifier with at least one of the access right categories, the access right being determined dependent on the association of the data object identifier with the at least one access right category.

29. (new) The method according to claim 26, further comprising storing medical data referring to a person in the data object.

30. (new) A method to protect from unauthorized access an electronic data object created to store information, comprising the steps of:

generating an electronic data object identifier which identifies a content of information stored in the data object;

providing a plurality of access right categories;

determining an electronic user identifier of an operating personnel seeking access to the data object, said user identifier being different than said data object identifier;

determining an association of the user identifier with at least one of the access right categories, the access right being determined dependent on the association of the user identifier with the at least one access right category, and also determining an association of the data object identifier with at least one of the access right categories, the access right being determined dependent on the association of the data object identifier with the at least one access right category;

determining the access right dependent on the data object identifier and also dependent on the user identifier; and

allowing the access of the data object dependent on the access right.

31. (new) A data processing system to protect from unauthorized access electronic data objects created to store information, comprising:

a user group module storing user identifiers of operating personnel;

a data object category module storing a plurality of access right categories;

an access right module;

a data object store storing said data objects, each of said data objects having an electronic data object identifier which identifies a content of information stored in the respective data object; and

an access control module connected to said data object store, access right module, data object category module, and user group module to determine an access right to at least one of the data objects dependent on the data object identifier and also dependent on the user identifier, and allowing an access by the operating personnel of the at least one data object dependent on the access right.

32. (new) A system according to claim 31 designed as a medical workstation.

33. (new) A system according to claim 32 wherein at least one of the data objects stores medical data referring to a person.

34. (new) A system according to claim 33 wherein the access right module provides an association of the user identifiers with access right categories.

35. (new) A system according to claim 33 wherein said data object category module provides an association of the data object identifiers with access right categories.